GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4769
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001
ANTYODAYA YOJANA
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat and rice supplied for the poorest of the poor under Antyodaya Yojana is also inferior in quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps have been taken by the Union Government for the supply of better quality rice and wheat;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

(a): No, Sir. Good quality wheat and rice conforming to the specifications laid down by the Government and the PFA norms are issued to the States and Union Territories for distribution under the public distribution system including the `Antyodaya Anna Yojana`

(b): Question does not arise.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The following steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good quality foodgrains are distributed:

(i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/ UTs to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UTs that an officer not belowthe rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before lifting from the FCI godowns.

(iii) The samples of foodgrains are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/ UTs and the FCI during the issue of stocks from FCI godowns for display at the counters of Fair Prices Shops (FPSs)

(iv) The officers of the State Governments` and the Ministry pay surpise checks of the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through TPDS.

(v) The officers of the Department designated as `Area Officers` for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains being issued.

(e): Does not arise.